

NOTE: Please correct/add any items that I missed in preparing this draft. So many of you added valuable comments and I am certain I did not record some details adequately.

MINUTES (DRAFT, 2/15/13)
Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Meeting
10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2013
Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit MI

Present: Brian Dunnigan, Russ Magnaghi, Jim McConnell,
Dick Micka, Dennis Moore, Ralph Naveaux,
Guests: Atiim J. Funchess, Marketing, Detroit Public Library
Romondo Locke, Graphics, Detroit Public Library
Absent: Bob Bury, David Hales, Eric Hemenway, Molly Luempert-Coy,
Phil Porter, Jim Spurr. George Zimmermann

The meeting was called to Order at 10:00 a.m. by Ralph Naveaux, Vice Chairman
The July 29, 2013, Meeting Minutes from the Harbor Springs Museum Meeting were approved,

I. Updates and Initiatives

A. Ralph asked to modify the agenda so we could discuss the “1812 Star Spangled Banner” Art Exhibition of the American Society of Marine Artists at the Detroit Public Library first, with the representatives of DPL Jim McConnell provided brief background comments on ASMA and the exhibit. He had gotten a very favorable review of the exhibit from David Caldwell at the Monday 1812 Symposium. David viewed the exhibit at the Buffalo Art Museum. Key issues discussed included

1. Financing & Promotion: The \$1,000 approved by the Commission will be used by DPL to help cover costs related to the Opening Program/Reception and Exhibit Promotion, including flyers for Noel Night, WDET ads, etc.. Press releases will be issued by DPL and will be used in the various 1812 systems, especially the DNR “1812” email group. Jim will also reach out to the art and the history communities.

2. Lecture Series: Thorough discussion of the six Saturday lecture series led to the decision to adjust the time from the 11 a.m. draft to 2 p.m., as most likely to attract attendees.

3. Opening Program and Reception: Consensus that the reception include representatives of key interest organizations, similar to the Sept. 29th Flag Raising Ceremony in addition to spokespersons for DPL and ASMA. We also hope to include representatives from the Wyandotte Native American community, if possible. Jim will work with A.J. to develop a draft. A reception will follow the Opening Program.

4. Exhibit Booklets: DPL will provide the Commission with 50 copies of the exhibit Booklet for use in their promotion,

6. Exhibit Area: DPL suggested use of a large room that can be secured area that can also be used for the lecture series, any other special events during the January 24-March 1 exhibit. A display table will be available for 1812 pamphlets and related materials. If feasible, a dvd/screen will be used to broadcast “Michigan At War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1812-1815,” the ASMA documentary, and related programs.

The Commission expressed appreciation to the Detroit Public Library for hosting this 1812 exhibit and looks forward to working with them to ensure a successful experience.

B. Battle of Lake Erie Reports

Dick Micke shared photos from the Battle, Ralph Naveaux discussed the variety of activities, and Dennis Moore reported that he had participated in the ceremonies marking the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stephenson in August.

C. Liberation of Frenchtown Report

Dick and Ralph also reported on this event, indicating it attracted a record attendance at River Raisin National Battlefield Park. The activities included reenactments, demonstrations, high school band performances, and a concert by the United States Navy Band.

D. Detroit Flag Raising Report

Dennis Moore and Jim McConnell reported that, in spite of some rainfall, the event was very successful. The Junior Sea Cadets were outstanding as were the reenactors present, especially the members of LaCroix's Company. Dick Micka and Ralph Naveaux also stated they were pleased with the event.

E. 1812 Tour Report

Jim McConnell reported that the tour attracted 42 participants, including 3 of the Symposium Presenters. The day was beautiful and Gerry Wykes served as tour guide/narrator for the RRNBP, Hull's Trace, and the Battles of Brownstown & Monguagon. Jim narrated the Detroit 1812 segments while Annette McConnell coordinated the day's activities and, with Rebecca McDonald, Detroit Historical Society staff member, handled registrations.

F. 1812 Symposium Report

In spite of extensive promotional efforts by many of the Commissioners, we only had about 40 paid registrations. As our budget was based on at least 100 attendees, we were not financially successful. However, the speakers were brilliant, the content was thoughtful, and Annette served as registrar, assisted with catering, and helped us save several hundred dollars. Jim will provide a final report once all expenses have been submitted and approved. Thanks also to our key sponsors and to the Detroit Historical Society.

G. Website and Media Update

Jim McConnell worked with Jolene Priest to have a press release issued announcing today's meeting. Jolene informed Jim that we have nearly 3,000 individuals in the DNR "1812" email group. David Hales is continuing to work on improving/updating the Education section of our website, www.michigan.gov/war1812

H. Education Initiatives

On behalf of David Hales, Jim stated that the two of them had presented a session at the Michigan Council for History Education/Grand Valley State University Great Lakes History Conference, that he will be presented at the Joint Conference for Social Studies, Geography, Civics & Economics in Lansing later this week, and that we are still discussing offering a "Legacies of the War of 1812 Essay Contest" next fall if we can obtain sufficient funding for prizes. The contest would follow similar guidelines and procedures as we have previously used. The contest would be offered in Fall 2014, with a Feb. 16 entry deadline (Bicentennial of Ratification of the Treaty of Ghent). Judging will occur in late Feb/early March with winners notified in mid-March and invited to an awards ceremony to be held in conjunction with the Commemoration of the Grand Pacification Ball at the Detroit Historical Museum on Sat., March 29, 2015.

III. Member and Historic Site Reports

Ralph Naveaux discussed upcoming activities and projects at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park.

Dick Micka mentioned programs of the International Wildlife Refuge and efforts by Monroe County to improve highway beautification near the RRNBP.

Russ Magnaghi expressed appreciation for the series of coordinated events (Tour; Symposium; Meeting) which was beneficial for his travel arrangements. He indicated that the Marquette area benefited from the

June 18 2012, Declaration of War Project and would likely also participate in local activities focusing on the Treaty of Ghent and the Ratification of the Treaty. Ralph and Dick supported the idea and said Monroe is planning some form of "Pacification" program. Jim encouraged them to hold the event in Feb. 2015 and they said it might be even earlier.

Brian Dunnigan noted that the Clements Library is now open at its new temporary location, that its lecture series will meet at the Hatcher Library on campus, and that their 1812 tour to the Toledo Art Museum and Fort Meigs was very successful.

Dennis Moore provided more background on the Fort Stephenson event in August and said the Sept. 29th Flag Raising Ceremony was very successful. He was pleased to have the Daughters of the British Empire participate. He will be attending their next meeting and hope they will be able to participate in the ASMA Art Exhibit Opening Program next January.

Jim McConnell expressed appreciation for the support of the Commissioners for the various recent events and noted that plans are well set for the Sat., March 29, 2015, "Commemoration of the Grand Pacification Ball." He mentioned that the article in "Border Crossings" has provided extensive background material on the dinner held in 1815 in Detroit.

E. 2013-2014-2015 Calendar of 1812 Events & Commission Meetings

Jim M. "briefly" described the series of upcoming activities and the proposed MEETING DATES for the Commission. A few date revisions were made to best fit the needs of the members. See ATTACHED CALENDAR SUMMARY.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting;

(A) Saturday, January 25, 2014, 10 a.m., Detroit Historical Museum.

Free time for lunch

2:00 p.m. 1812 Lecture Phil Porter "Mackinac in the War of 1812, Detroit Public Library

3:00 p.m. ASMA Exhibit Opening Program followed by Reception

(B) Mon., April 7, 2014 Commission Meeting, Lansing

(Easter is on April 20, 2014.)

(C) Mon., August 4, 2014 (Date to be determined and could be that weekend.) Battle of Mackinac Island Reenactment Based on Reenactment Plans, the Commission will meet at date/time to permit attendance at the reenactment on Mackinac Island

Respectively submitted,

Jim McConnell, Secretary
October 16, 2013